

PRIME MINISTER

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COMMUNITY CHARGE

You may like a progress report on the work in hand in the run up to next Thursday's vote on the Community Charge package.

Chris Patten's officials are continuing to refine the work on a possible fall-back package. But he is not pressing for a meeting to discuss this; he and David Hunt are apparently quite happy to press on with the current PR campaign and go all out to win the vote on the basis of present plans.

The key ingredient is of course the Chief Whip's latest assessment of voting intentions. I gather he will be at your lunch on Sunday, and you may like to take him aside for a quiet word. I suggest that whether or not you need to hold a further meeting with the small group of colleagues next week depends on what the Chief Whip has to say. If you need to hold a meeting there is time available in the diary on either Tuesday or Wednesday.

PLG.

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(PAUL GRAY)

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